



The Ontario Handspinning Seminar has been sharing, promoting and educating handspinners since 1964.

www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

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Spring Newsletter 2019

A Whorled Tour of Fibre

Exploring Luxury Fibres from Around the World

June 7 - 9, 2019

Western University, London, Ontario

Keynote Speaker

Our Saturday morning keynote speaker will be Linda Cortright, the editor and publisher of Wild Fibers. She will talk about some of her extraordinary travels around the world, pursuing all aspects of the natural fiber industry. From Alaska to Afghanistan, from the South African savanna to the steppe land of Russia, Linda offers a unique view of the fibers that provide a livelihood for many, and endless pleasure for others.

Linda will also discuss the Pangong Craft Center built in India's High Himalayas, which now employs more than 130 women, producing cashmere yarn and garments from the animals they have lovingly raised. This enables them to work in a warm and safe environment during the severe winter months.

Linda has the exclusive rights in North America for the showing of the documentary film "Shepherdess of the Glaciers". This is an award winning film that depicts the life of a cashmere goat shepherdess in the High Himalayas of Ladakh India. The film will be shown on Saturday night and is included in your registration fee. Additional tickets will be available at the registration desk for \$10.00 while quantities last.



Cashmere Fibre from Ladakh

Linda Cortright is making available for purchase, cashmere from the Pangong Craft Center. This fibre has been prepared by the women of the Pangong Craft Center from the goats they raise. The sale of the fibre supports the Craft Center. The cost is \$45.00/ounce and it must be ordered with your registration. The cashmere will be available for pick up at the Seminar registration desk.



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the cashmere fibre from Ladakh is not available

Saturday Workshops

All workshops are full day workshops.

Cashmere: The Glamorous Goat

Barbara Scott

Cashmere is synonymous with luxury. Come and explore fibre preparation and spinning techniques to make the yarns of your dreams. After spending some time working with cashmere and cashmere blends, we will create some designer yarns to highlight cashmere's softness and extend its sumptuous qualities.

Equipment List:

- Wheel in good, working order
- Three or more empty bobbins
- Lazy kate
- Pen & paper for note-taking
- A dark coloured cloth for your lap
- Mini-combs if you have them
- Handcarders for cotton if you have them, otherwise wool handcarders

Barbara Scott is a Master Spinner who has completed the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate program *with distinction*. She has taught at conferences, guild workshops and colleges. To spinning, Barbara brings curiosity, a need for technical mastery and delight in experimentation. In her spare time, she is trying to apply those qualities to weaving.



100% Silk from Cocoon to ?

Harriet Boon

Globetrotting – we'll follow the ancient Silk Road from China through Central Asia to Europe and home. Our travels begin with cocoons from China, and using tools from Thailand to reel fine threads, also create and spin our own mawatas. Spin cocoons as is done in Kenya, add coloured wild silks from India to the basket. It is our plan to create and model a souvenir at our journey's end.



Equipment List:

- Spinning wheel with a standard flyer or a spindle
- 3 empty bobbins
- Hand Cards
- Lazy Kate
- Niddy Noddy
- Solid colour lap cloth or plain hand towel
- Knitting needles or crochet hook

A spinner has the luxury of easy travel through fibres. Harriet has enjoyed many such journeys since the early '70's. Sharing fibre lessons and learning from others has been her focus.

First Steps into the Wild!

Joan McKenzie

How wild have you been with your spinning?? Looking for more adventures? Have you met Cormo? CVM? The world of wool offers many opportunities, and is a great launching point to take your first steps into the Whorled World of Wild Fibres! Start the journey with some luxury wools, such as Cormo, CVM, Wensleydale or Lincoln. Then move onto blends with alpaca and baby camel. Wool blends are a great way to start your adventure, combining the familiar feel of wool with the exotic characteristics of other fibres. Appropriate spinning techniques will be shown for each fibre/fibre blend. This workshop is appropriate for beginner spinners and those with more experience too.



Equipment List:

- Spinning wheel & toolkit
- 3 bobbins
- Lazy kate
- Niddy Noddy & skein ties
- Labels for fibre bags
- Lap cloth or apron
- Pen & paper

- Camera
- A sense of adventure

Joan is a member of the Etobicoke Handweavers and Spinners, and practices a number of techniques – spinning, weaving, dyeing, felting, knitting, rug hooking, crocheting, tatting and various forms of needlework. She's been spinning since 2007 and in 2017 was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Spinning, from the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS).

Luxury on a Stick

Catharina Forbes

Spindles are the perfect tool for spinning luxury fibres. In this workshop we will spin a variety of fibres and blends using supported and/or suspended spindles. We will learn about the various properties of the fibres we spin and whether to blend or not. Plying techniques will also be covered, as well as what to do with your finished yarn.

Equipment List:

- Spindles, supported and/or light, fast suspended spindles
- Fine cotton hand cards if you have them or flick carders



Catharina has been spinning since the mid 1980s when she made a spindle with a bar of soap and a stick and attempted to spin the hair from her long haired cat. She now spins almost exclusively with a spindle and loves to discover new techniques and spindles.

Luxurious Colour – Spinning Fine Ontario Wool

Julia Lee

Fine wool can be a luxury fibre, particularly if it comes in beautiful colours! Wool is also slightly easier to spin than the more slippery exotic fibres, so is an easy “gateway” for newer spinners. Among the finest Ontario wools available are Rambouillet, Norbillet, Polwarth, and Bluefaced Leicester. Julia will dye some of these wools and guide participants in preparing and spinning them into fine plied yarns that are appropriate for many uses. After spinning the wool alone, participants will be invited to combine the fibre with small quantities of exotic fibre to produce exciting and unique yarns for accents or special projects.



Equipment List:

- Spinning wheel in good working order
- At least 3 bobbins with lead cords
- Lazy kate
- Hand carders

Julia Lee is a graduate, teacher, and coordinator of the OHS Spinning Certificate Program in Haliburton, and founder of Provenance Yarns and Textiles. She has been a spinner for almost 30 years and has recently become particularly interested in using Ontario-produced spinning fibres. Some of her fibre passes through a dyepot and emerges transformed into many hues. Julia enjoys sharing her love of fibres and colours through her artwork, presentations, and workshops.

Off the Beaten Path: Discovering the Camelids

Beth Showalter

Our adventure begins by meeting the diverse fibre-bearing animals that make up the camelid family. In this workshop we will examine the different characteristics of these luxury fibres as we travel from the New World to the Old World. You will explore different fibre preparations, blends, spinning approaches and finishing methods to create a variety of beautiful handspun yarns. Come prepared to spin off the beaten path as we learn about the rich, historical and cultural roles this family of animals played for centuries and as their journey continues onwards!



Equipment List:

- Wheel in good, working order with repair kit
- At least 3 to 4 empty bobbins
- Lazy Kate
- Hand Carders + Niddy Noddy
- Optional: Knitting needles(s) and/or crochet hook(s), ball winder, wool combs

Beth has always found inspiration in textiles, fibres and history. She began her spinning journey 20 years ago at the Seminar and

completed the OHS Spinning Certificate Program in 2014. Beth looks for ways to learn new techniques, share ideas and experiment with fibre whenever possible!

Amazing Angora

Eileen Land

Angora is a wonderful luxury fibre that comes from those cute fluffy rabbits. In this workshop we will be looking at the five breeds of angora rabbits and their fibre. We will spend time talking about the rabbits, how the fibre is collected, rabbit care and then work on spinning samples from all five breeds. In the afternoon we will be working on blending angora. While 100 percent angora yarn is fabulous, blending angora can produce wonderful yarns that enhance all the fibres use. We will work on blending in different ways with different fibres and tools. We will also touch on dyeing angora, the pros and cons. Come and play with this lovely fibre!

Equipment List:

- A spinning wheel or spindle
- Extra bobbins for plying
- Lazy kate
- Hand carders for blending
- A ball winder would also be useful



Eileen Land started spinning and playing with angora rabbits and their fibre over 30 years ago. Although she no longer raises the rabbits she still uses angora on a regular basis. There are always new things to learn and new things to try!!

The Luxury Side of Mohair

Donna Hancock

Mohair is one of those fibres that has a large range in micron count. This enables it to be strong enough for upholstery and fine enough to be a luxury fibre. The shine that mohair has also adds to its luxury. We will be creating a variety of blends using kid mohair to see the luxurious side of mohair.



Equipment List:

- A spinning wheel or drop spindle
- Apron
- Hand carders

Donna has been spinning for an eternity or at least it feels like it. She has a herd of Angora goats and has a spinning mill where she adds value to her fibre and many other producers' fibre. Her life spins around fibre most days.

Introduction to Qiviuk

Kathy Morgan

Explore the unique characteristics of qiviuk – the underdown of the musk ox. Investigate the different processing methods - from raw down to wonderful roving. Then try your hand at spinning this luxury fibre.

Equipment List:

- Spinning wheel in good working condition and well oiled
- Fast flyer – if available, is preferable
- Hand carders are required. If carders with extra fine cloth suitable for carding cotton are available, these are preferable.
- Bobbins; total 3-4
- Lazy Kate
- Niddy noddy
- Orifice hook
- Plain lap cloth or tea towel
- Hand lotion, if your hands are dry
- Spinning tool kit – whatever additional tools you use to enhance your spinning experience



A fibre-enthusiast for many years, Kathy enjoys spinning, weaving, knitting, kumihimo and traditional English bobbin lace. In 1995, Kathy completed the OHS Handspinning Certificate Program and was the recipient of the Ted Carson Award as top graduating student. When not busy in her studio, Kathy enjoys teaching and demonstrating to help broaden public awareness of the fibre arts.

Will it Blend?? Tabi Ferguson



First, we will take a bit of a romp around the world, touching down where many luxury fibres originate. Then we will take a closer look at the unique and subtle qualities of each fibre so that we can make decisions on how to take advantage of them. We will be playing with cloud, roving and top to explore the challenges of blending and spinning these tiny, typically short fibres to create fantastic luxury yarns.

Equipment List:

- Spinning wheel, preferably fast ratio, lightly braked or spindles
- Hand cards or blending boards

Tabi Ferguson has been spinning primarily silk and luxury fibres for the last 19 years. She started Sericin Silkworks in 2010, hand dyeing silk and luxury fibres but she has also been seen scooping up our wonderful local wools as she envisions worlds of beautiful blends.

Sunday Morning Activity, Fashion Show and Awards Presentation

Sunday morning you'll have an opportunity to create a unique item to take home with you.

The fashion show will highlight the items entered for display, including skeins. Fashion show items may be made using any technique and fibre type. Please think about the items you have spun which display the wonderful and varied ideas you have had this year. This event is a wonderful way to have your handspinning seen by your peers and to gain inspiration from others.

The fashion show will be followed by our Awards Presentation. Award winning items are selected from the amazing items entered for display.

Door Prizes

Door prizes, generously donated by our vendors, will be awarded Sunday morning. Our grand prize will be one free registration at next year's Seminar. You must be in attendance when your name is drawn to be eligible for a prize.

Sales Room

The Sales Room will be open Friday from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm and again on Saturday from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Admission is free for Seminar participants. There is a \$5.00 admission charge for those not attending the Seminar. Admission may be paid at the door.



Registration

Register online at www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca. By registering online you will know immediately if there is space available in your chosen workshop. The seminar registration fee (\$120.00) includes access to the workshops, the movie, fashion show, awards presentation and after-hours activities. It also includes all supplies and handouts for the attendee's selected workshop and access to the Sales and Display rooms. Online registration begins on April 6 and ends on April 30. On April 6, live technical support will be available by emailing handspinningseminar@gmail.com. During the remainder of the registration window, emails will be replied to as promptly as possible. If you prefer to register by mail, fill in the registration form from the website, print it off and add a cheque payable to Ontario Handspinning Seminar Committee. Mail your registration to:

Ontario Handspinning Seminar
Lee Donely, Registrar
P.O. Box 69
Delaware, ON N0L 1E0

Note: Any mailed registrations received prior to April 6, will not be processed until online registration begins on April 6.

Post-dated cheques will not be accepted. NSF cheques will be charged \$25.00. For our American participants, please **register online** or send either an **INTERNATIONAL POSTAL MONEY ORDER** or **BANK DRAFT IN CANADIAN FUNDS**. We do not accept personal cheques or Travellers Cheques, and money orders must be specifically meant for International use. Domestic U.S. money orders cannot be cashed in Canada.

A waiting list will be created if your favourite workshop is filled. If there is a cancellation, the spot will go to the first person on the waiting list.

Decisions to provide refunds will be made on a case-by-case basis. An administration fee of \$15.00 will be applied to all refunds. Due to contractual obligations to the University, no refunds will be made after May 23, 2019.

Accommodations

Our accommodations will be in Essex Hall, one of Western's newest residences. Essex Hall features furnished suites. Each suite contains four single lockable bedrooms, two bathrooms, a lounge and a kitchenette with a stove top, microwave and refrigerator. No cooking utensils, cutlery, glassware or dishes are provided. Each bed is made up with linen, 2 pillows, blanket and bedspread. Towels, face cloth, soap and a drinking cup are also provided. Free wifi, free parking and breakfast are included. Laundry facilities, a fitness room and a computer lab are available in the building. Room registration will be with your Seminar registration. The room rate is \$80.00 per person per night (including a full breakfast for each night booked).

Meals

Our meals will be served in the Essex Hall Dining Hall. The Full Breakfast Grill on Saturday and Sunday is included with your accommodation, but is also available at charge of \$15.00 for those not staying at Essex Hall. On Saturday we will have a buffet lunch and a banquet in the evening. There will be a cash bar available

at the banquet. On Sunday a Grab & Go Box Lunch will be available for those who want to eat before they leave or to have something to eat on the way home. The box lunch includes a sandwich, fruit and a soft drink. All meals must be ordered with your Seminar registration and are not included in the registration fee. Please indicate any food allergies or dietary restrictions on your registration form. To help the environment, please bring your own water bottle so we can cut down on plastic glasses and bottles.

Baggie Challenge



If you attended the 2018 Seminar, you would have received a lovely triangular baggie, which contained your baggie challenge. Your challenge is to create an item of “headwear” to be displayed at the 2019 Seminar. You must use at least some of every fibre in your baggie and you must dye some of the fibre with the Kool Aid provided. You may also use additional fibres and dyes from your stash if you wish.

Aprons

We will have Seminar aprons available for purchase this year. They are a solid twill fabric with an adjustable neck band and waist straps. The width of the apron is 27.5” and the length is 30”. The aprons have three pockets, are taupe in colour and have the Seminar logo embroidered on them. The cost is \$30.00 and you can order them along with registration. They will be available for pickup at the Seminar registration desk.



2019 Display Categories

Everyone is encouraged to bring an item to put into the Display. This is an opportunity for us to exchange ideas and to indulge in a bit of “Show-and-Tell” – a chance to see what others have been working on since the last Seminar. No matter what your level of experience, it is nice to be inspired by each other. This also is an opportunity to have a close look at items that might be in the Fashion Show. Items on display will be eligible for the WOW award and items made from 100% handspun will be eligible for the Founders Award.

For all categories the following guidelines apply:

- Seminar participants are limited to one entry per category
- Only entries made entirely of handspun yarn are eligible for the Founders Award
- Entries in all the categories must have been completed in the last year.

Categories:

- **Simple 2-ply skein:** Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn.
- **3 or more ply skein:** Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn.
- **Novelty skein:** Your goal is to construct a yarn which boasts a decorative element. This may be a spinning technique (crepe or bouclé for example) or it may consist of additions to your spun yarn (beads, feathers etc.). The choice is yours...so have fun with it.
- **Spindle-spun skein:** The 2 or more ply yarn must be spun and plied on a hand spindle.
- **Baggie Challenge**
- **Garments:** Projects may include sweaters, vests, jackets, shawls, etc.
- **Accessories:** Projects may include hats, scarves, socks, mittens, etc.
- **Other:** Projects may include dolls, tea cozies, placemats, household items, etc.

2019 Awards

New to the Seminar Award: This award will go to the first two people to register who are attending the Seminar for the first time. The award will be the registration fee, along with \$50.00.

Founders' Award: This award honours the Founders of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar. Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson and Dorothy Kirk established the first Handspinning Seminar gathering in 1964. The \$100 award is presented to the person with the best article on display made from 100% handspun. Chosen by ballots cast by the Seminar attendees.

WOW Award: This \$50 award recognizes an article that inspires the viewer to say... “WOW!” **All articles submitted for display are eligible.** The WOW award is decided by the 2019 Seminar display convenors.

Baggie Challenge: The \$50 award recognizes an item created from fibre received in the baggie at the 2018 Seminar. Chosen by ballots cast by the Seminar attendees.

Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award: This award for \$100.00 is presented by the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners. The award is given in recognition of an article on display that demonstrates the best use of handspun yarn in a **handwoven article**. Judges are provided by the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners.

Handweavers Guild of America: This award of a certificate of accomplishment and a handwoven ribbon is presented by the Handweavers Guild of America in recognition of “a work of handweaving, spinning, dyeing, or basket making, which embodies a unique interpretation, demonstrates a fresh individual approach and expresses personal creativity,” as judged by an appointee of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Board of Directors.

Volunteers

Volunteers help with many tasks during the seminar: collecting meal tickets, hosting in the Display Room, modelling for the Fashion Show. If you would like to volunteer, please check off the appropriate box on the registration form.

Legal Stuff

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. is not responsible for damage to or loss of personal property. We do take every precaution to protect your equipment and materials on display. Workshop and display rooms will be secured at all times when Seminar participants are not in attendance.

If you do not want to have your photo taken, please mention it to our photographer when she aims her camera in your direction.

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www.ravelry.com/groups/ontario-handspinning-seminar-fans



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